



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,092	10/31/2003	Chen-Shang Lai	4425-263A	1455
7590	09/09/2004		EXAMINER	
LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP			LOKE, STEVEN HO YIN	
Suite 300			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1700 Diagonal Road				2811
Alexandria, VA 22314			DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,092	LAI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Steven Loke	2811	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 11-27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 16-27 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

1. It is noted that this application appears to claim subject matter disclosed in prior Application No. 10/178,235, filed 6/25/02. A reference to the prior application must be inserted as the first sentence of the specification of this application or in an application data sheet (37 CFR 1.76), if applicant intends to rely on the filing date of the prior application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120. See 37 CFR 1.78(a). For benefit claims under 35 U.S.C. 120, the reference must include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) of all nonprovisional applications. Also, the current status of all nonprovisional parent applications referenced should be included.

If the application is a utility or plant application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) on or after November 29, 2000, the specific reference to the prior application must be submitted during the pendency of the application and within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior application. If the application is a utility or plant application which entered the national stage from an international application filed on or after November 29, 2000, after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371, the specific reference must be submitted during the pendency of the application and within the later of four months from the date on which the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b) or (f) or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior application. See 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and (a)(5)(ii). This time period is not extendable and a failure to submit the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 119(e) and/or 120, where applicable, within this time period is considered a waiver of any benefit of such prior application(s) under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121 and 365(c). A priority claim filed after the required time period may be accepted if it is accompanied by

a grantable petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121 and 365(c). The petition must be accompanied by (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 or 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) or (a)(5) to the prior application (unless previously submitted), (2) a surcharge under 37 CFR 1.17(t), and (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) or (a)(5) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional. The petition should be addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

2. Claims 11-15 are withdrawn from consideration in the preliminary amendment filed on 11/20/03.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In page 10, lines 24-25, it is believed that region 432 having a first conductivity type (p-type) instead of the second conductivity type. In page 10, lines 29-30, the phrase "a forth heavily doped region" is unclear whether it is being referred to "a fourth heavily doped region".

Appropriate correction is required.

4. Claims 18-21 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 18-21, line 1, the phrase "controlled guard ring structure" is unclear whether it is being referred to "a controlled guard ring structure". Claim 21, lines 4-5, the phrase "said first conductivity type" has no antecedent basis; line 5, the phrase "said first conductivity" is unclear whether it is being referred to "said first conductivity type"; line 8, the phrase "first heavily doped region" is unclear whether it is being referred to "a first heavily

doped region"; line 9, the phrase "second heavily doped region" is unclear whether it is being referred to "a second heavily doped region"; line 14, the phrase "electrically coupled said switch" is unclear where it is being referred to "electrically coupled to said switch"; lines 14-15, the phrase "said second node same as said first node" is unclear whether it is being referred to "said second node is same as said first node".

Appropriate correction is required.

5. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification (page 10, lines 17-19) discloses the second lightly doped well region [414] is a controlled N well guard ring. The specification never discloses the fifth heavily doped region is a controlled guard ring as claimed in claim 27.

6. Claims 16-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 16, line 14, the phrase "a forth heavily doped region" is unclear whether it is being referred to "a fourth heavily doped region".

The specification discloses the p-type region [440] (the sixth heavily doped region) overlaps the junction between the substrate [400] and the N-well region [412] (the first lightly doped well region). It is unclear why claim 16 (lines 19-20) discloses the sixth

heavily doped region overlaps a junction between said substrate and said second lightly doped well region.

Claim 21, lines 10-11, the phrase "each said heavily doped region in the concentration is higher than each said lightly doped well region" is not understood. Does it mean "each said heavily doped region has an impurity concentration higher than each said lightly doped well region"?

Claim 21 discloses the first, second, fourth and fifth heavily doped region. It is unclear where is the third heavily doped region in the claim.

Claim 21, lines 14-15, the phrase "the electrical type of said second node" is unclear whether it is being referred to the polarity type of the second node; line 18, the phrase "said electrical type of said third node" is unclear whether it is being referred to the polarity type of the third node.

7. Claims 16 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The major difference in the claims not found in the prior art of record is a terminal of a switch is electrically coupled to a fifth heavily doped region and a control circuit is electrically coupled to the switch.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Loke whose telephone number is (571) 272-1657. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:50 am to 5:20 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Lee can be reached on (571) 272-1732. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

sl
September 6, 2004

Steven Loka
Primary Examiner

